Aswagandha for AIDS

99. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aswagandha is answer to AIDS;

(b) whether it is a fact that an Ayurvedic researcher and Professor of Dravya Guna at Vijayawada based Nori Rama Shastry Government College of Ayurveda has made it proved;

(c) whether it has also been proved that CD4 count of patients has gone up and corollary viral load reduced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Aswagandha is one of the Rasayana drugs mentioned in Ayurvedic classics and is useful as an immuno modulator in all debilitating conditions to improve the general health and quality of life. Its efficacy against AIDS is yet to be proved.

(b) to (d) Dr. K. Nisteswar, Professor of Dravyaguna, Dr. NRS Govt. Ayurveda College, Vijayawada has made such a claim on the basis of the treatment of a single patient and therefore, the claim is not scientifically valid.

Epidemics in Kerala

100. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority has identified various epidemics that had occurred in Kerala for last five years;

(b) if so, the details of above epidemics, number of people affected, number of deaths, number of teams that had visited to examine the epidemics for last five years, category-wise, district-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of financial and other assistance granted to State to control above epidemics for last five years, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether Competent Authority would establish a permanent national facility in Kerala for studying above epidemics;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the State Government is empowered to declare a disease and epidemic. Outbreaks of dengue fever have been reported from various districts of Kerala during the last five years. District-wise, year-wise details of cases of dengue reported from Kerala are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

Outbreaks of suspected Chikungunya fever are also being reported from Kerala since 2006. No case of Chikungunya was reported from the State prior to 2006. The